

Go Army, Beat Navy...



Photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt

Army troops supporting Operation Enduring Freedom stationed at Bagram Air Base let their spirit show as they yelled "Go Army, Beat Navy" in support for their team during the filming of a video scheduled to air during the Army Navy game. The Army team enthusiasm was lead by Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, CJTF-180 commander and Brig. Gen. Byron Bagby, CJTF-180 assistant division commander.

New gym improves quality of life for Kandahar Air Field

Story by Spc. Timothy S. Melzow
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Everyday life on Kandahar Air Field isn't always easy, but a lot of people are contributing to improve living conditions and the overall quality of life here. The entire base is receiving a facelift, from the flight line to the blue (sewage) lagoon.

The hustle and bustle of the base and the tempo of projects going on are only going to escalate, because having good morale is an integral part of a successful military campaign, Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has a huge role in improving the quality of life on base.

One of the biggest improvements on base

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Officials encouraged by Afghanistan's progress

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – While Iraq is the central front of the war on terrorism, Afghanistan is a crucial theater also, DoD officials said today.

More than 9,800 American service members continue to serve in Afghanistan, a place that Pentagon officials stress is still dangerous.

An American Special Forces soldier was killed while operating with Afghan militia forces in Helmand province Oct. 30. The patrol made contact with a 10- to 15-member anti-coalition element. Coalition officials said the patrol engaged in a six-hour firefight and had to call in close-air support. After the enemy broke off action, the U.S. soldier died of his wounds.

The number of American troops will remain fairly constant. Pen-

tagon officials expect the numbers to creep up as the next rotation of U.S. personnel into the country begins, but then settle back to the current number as troops rotate home.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld likes to contrast the effectiveness of coalition troops today with the Soviet invasion of 1978. Rumsfeld said that the Soviets had 300,000 troops in Afghanistan and were battled to a standstill and eventually forced to leave.

The United States has just under 10,000 troops in the nation, and the coalition is making visible progress.

The enemy is confusing, Pentagon officials said, and like Iraq, different sections of the country have different security needs.

The Taliban make up the majority of the anti-coalition forces. The group's stronghold is with the Pashtu-dominated areas along the country's border with Pakistan. Kandahar, Paktia and Paktika provinces are particular problems for coalition troops.

The coalition and Pakistan are working together to eliminate

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



U.S. troops stationed in Iraq held a service Thursday honoring the victims of Sunday's CH-47 Chinook helicopter crash outside Fallujah.

Chinook tried to evade missile

WASHINGTON – The Chinook helicopter which crashed in Iraq this week fired at least one flare in an attempt to evade the heat-seeking missile that brought it down, a senior Army official told reporters Thursday.

The unconfirmed reports came from survivors from the crash, troops in a trailing helicopter and witnesses on the ground.

This is the first indication that the helicopter crew was able to make an attempt to evade the missile.

It follows criticism from U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, that suggested the CH-47 Chinook transport helicopter wasn't fully armored for defense.

The transport helicopter went down Sunday, initially killing 15 soldiers and wounding 27 others. The Pentagon reported that a 16th soldier died Thursday from wounds sustained in the crash.

A Defense Department statement said Sgt. Paul F. Fisher, 39, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died at a hospital in Germany.

Witnesses reported seeing surface-to-air missile plumes before the aircraft went down Sunday, and the crash is under investigation, military officials said.

Durbin sent a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asking whether the craft "had on board a fully operational ALQ-156 system with an automatic flare dispenser and whether it had seat armor."

An ALQ-156 system fires flares that lure a heat-seeking missile away from an aircraft's en-

gines. Seat armor protects the pilots.

Durbin said Tuesday that "reliable military sources" told him ALQ-156s were only recently installed on some National Guard helicopters, that others flew "almost six months" without necessary equipment and that other aircraft lack any defense system at all.

A coalition official told *CNN* on Wednesday that the helicopter was equipped with a key missile defense system.



A Kenyan policeman walks past the destroyed Paradise Hotel in November 2002.

Somalia terrorist haven

UNITED NATIONS – A new U.N. report identifies Somalia as a terrorist haven that served as a base for the perpetrators of the al Qaeda-linked Mombasa Paradise hotel bombing last year.

It says Somalia has become a key arms smuggling country for terrorists.

"Weapons shipments destined for Somalia tend to originate in or are routed through Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen and the UAE. From these countries, transporting arms to Somalia is straightforward," the report says.

It adds that "transnational terrorists have been able to obtain not only small arms but also man-portable air defense systems, light anti-tank weapons and explosives."

"The terrorists responsible for the bombing of the Paradise Hotel in 2002 in Mombasa and the attempted attack on Flight 582 from Mombasa to Tel Aviv brought missiles from Yemen via Somalia to Kenya.

"The panel has determined that it remains relatively easy to obtain surface-to-air missiles and import them to Somalia."

The report goes on to say "that additional weapons may have since been imported into Somalia solely for the purpose of carrying out further terrorist attacks in neighboring states."



An August 2002 photo of construction at the Kumho reactor site.

N. Korea: nuke ready to use

LONDON – North Korea's envoy in Britain says Pyongyang has a nuclear deterrent that was ready to use and powerful enough to deter any U.S. attack.

Ambassador Ri Yong Ho told *Reuters* Thursday in an interview that North Korea would only use its capability in self-defense. Asked if North Korea had a nuclear bomb, he said: "What we are saying is, a nuclear deterrent capability."

North Korea has long hinted that it had a nuclear bomb. It said last month it was prepared to demonstrate the existence of its nuclear deterrent "when an appropriate time comes."

But Thursday's comments appear to be the first time it has explicitly stated that it has a nuclear weapon ready to deploy.

Ri said the deterrent was made of plutonium, most of which was recently reprocessed but was extracted before a 1994 freeze on its nuclear weapons program under a pact with Washington. It was ready to use should the United States attack, he said.

In response, State Department spokesman Adam Ereli repeated the long-standing U.S. position that, "we have no intention of attacking North Korea."

The latest crisis in North Korea-U.S. relations erupted in October 2002 when U.S. officials said the Communist state was pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapons program that violated its international commitments.

In an apparent bid to defuse the crisis, Washington last month offered Pyongyang unspecified security assurances for the first time, in exchange for a complete, verifiable and irreversible end to its suspected weapons program.

Washington has ruled out a formal non-aggression treaty.

Construction for ANA installation underway

In a few months, the 1st Brigade, Afghan National Army (ANA), will be moving to a new home in Southwestern Kabul. A construction project for the new military installation is well underway.

By the end of the year, construction should be finished on 20 new barracks, a mess hall and a shooting range.

"When I first saw the proposed site, it resembled a junk yard, now you can hardly recognize the place. From one day to the next, it is continually changing for the better. The place is starting to look livable," said Canadian Maj. Ken McKay, assistant training officer for the ANA Design Team, Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan.

Echo West International (EWI), a private construction company based out of Islamabad, Pakistan, is transforming the land into a useful habitat for the ANA soldiers. "The buildings are made according to engineer specifications and will serve the ANA very nicely," said Mohamed Jawid, a development project manager overseeing 12 of the new barracks being built.

EWI already constructed several barracks for the ANA at Pol-e-Charki. "We are happy to see construction taking place in this country," said Malik Javed Ahmad Khan, EWI senior project manager in Afghanistan. "Many Afghans have spent time in Pakistan and many of them suffered a great deal before fleeing their homeland. Afghanistan is our brother country and we wish for them all to have a bright future. Helping to build new facilities for the ANA is a great thing for Afghanistan. We employ more than 250 Afghan workers and this project utilizes local purchases for all our building materials," said Khan.

Building up the new National Army not only provides for the future peace, security and stability of Afghanistan; it is also contributing to the economic development of the country through on-going construction projects, such as these new facilities being made ready for the ANA.

(Information provided by Spc. Douglas DeMaio, OMC-A)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"The Last of the Mohicans"

1530Z at the MWR Building:

Three trappers protect a British Colonel's daughters in the midst of the French and Indian War.

Tomorrow's movie: "Half Past Dead"



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

| | Today | Saturday |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bagram: | Mostly Cloudy H: 63F L: 32F | Mostly Cloudy H: 61F L: 34F |
| Kandahar: | Dusty H: 66F L: 32F | Dusty H: 66F L: 30F |
| Kabul: | Mostly Cloudy H: 55F L: 27F | Mostly Cloudy H: 55F L: 27F |
| Uzbekistan: | Rain H: 49F L: 32F | Mostly Cloudy H: 50F L: 32F |

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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is the new gymnasium. The project, which is almost completed, will be a vast improvement over the current facility. MWR employee Robert Jones, from Fort Worth, Texas, said the old gym is simply too small for the amount of people on KAF. "On an average night, we have about 100 people working out," he said. "It gets pretty crowded in here."

Housed in two tents approximately 30 feet by 80 feet each, soldiers often complained about the overcrowded conditions and lack of air conditioning. With the new gym however, space will hardly be a problem.

Located north of tent city and next to the new MWR tents, the new gym, a clamshell structure, will be considerably larger. It measures 64 feet by 118 feet and the walls will have the ability to be raised up, thus allowing the breeze to cool the gym.

William O'Brien, MWR coordinator for KAF from Fort Polk, La., says there will be \$50,000 worth of new equipment purchased to go into the new gym.

He also stated that the new gym will be able to hold about 200 people, twice the amount of the old gym. The new gym will

continue to be open 24 hours a day.

A portion of the MWR tent will be used as the cardio equipment center.

Stationary bikes, stair climbers, and elliptical machines will be available for cardiovascular training. O'Brien states that treadmills will not be a part of the new equipment, because the sandy/dusty conditions here destroy the running boards in a short amount of time.

The new gym will be divided in two sections. A climbing wall that is 20 feet tall by 24 feet wide will bisect the clamshell. A basketball court will be on one half and the other half will have all the free weights and Nautilus machines.

The soldiers on Kandahar Air Field go to the gym to stay fit and relieve stress. The new facility will feature more than enough equipment to do a total body workout. Staff Sgt. Robert Moore of the 303rd Adjutant General Postal Company from Lowell, Mass., said he works out twice a day, and five to six days a week.

"Anytime you can improve the quality of equipment, it's probably going to improve the level of fitness for a soldier. With a better and larger facility more soldiers will have a chance

to improve themselves," Moore said.

O'Brien stated that the construction of the new gym is part of MWR's, 205th Engineer's, and Brown and Root's endeavor to upgrade the entire base's amenities. "The new gym will be more appealing, it'll be larger, and cooler. The soldiers have a lot on their minds, and it reduces stress," said O'Brien. He added that anything that helps the morale of a soldier is important.

Sgt. Glenn Gilbert of the 303rd AG Postal Co., from Chicopee, Mass. goes to the gym six days a week. At one point he stopped going due to the crowd and the long wait to utilize certain equipment. "With the new gym it will be a nice change of pace for everyone who is used to the old gym," Gilbert said.

Gilbert agrees that the new gym will be better than the current facility.

He also added that, "The gym we are in seems like a barbarians gym."

With all the new improvements taking place at Kandahar Air Field, MWR is doing it's best to help the service members live a little more comfortable. The new gym will be one of the main centers of activity on base.

PROGRESS, from Page 1

Taliban sanctuaries along the borders. However, this is hampered by the fact that the border is one of the most mountainous areas on Earth. The topography is riddled with caves that the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies have expanded and connected.

News reports talk about the Taliban "reconstituting" itself and attacking coalition forces. Pentagon officials said the Taliban groups are small. "Generally, a large group may have 20 to 25 members," said an official. "The Taliban are not moving to an area and refitting in the normal sense of the word. They are on the run and surviving on what they've squirreled away in the past."

Coalition forces continue to pursue anti-coalition forces. Operation Mountain Viper, begun Sept. 4 in the eastern mountains of Afghanistan, is still underway. An enhanced brigade and stand-by close-air support work together to kill and capture the anti-coalition forces and to deny them sanctuary.

But the anti-coalition forces situation in Afghanistan is complicated. Afghans have loyalty to tribes and to provincial and area warlords. Some of these warlords pay lip service to the central government headed by interim President Hamid Karzai and then do whatever they want in their areas.

Other warlords support the government, but do not get along with neighboring warlords. The quality of the forces the warlords

maintain is hugely uneven, said Pentagon officials. Some warlords maintain semi-trained and disciplined forces. Others have ragtag groups that are little better than bandits.

The Afghan National Army is a response to that problem. American and French special operations forces train the army, which is an amalgam of the Afghan ethnic groups. Pashtuns serve with Uzbeks, who serve with Tajiks, and so on. The units are disciplined and local Afghans realize the army will not steal from them. The ANA is much in demand in the country, and the coalition is working to speed training and deployment of the forces.

Two years after the coalition effort that drove the Taliban from power and put the al Qaeda terror group to flight, conditions in Afghanistan are improving. Coalition forces have built or rebuilt schools, they have provided public health aid, and they have provided food and shelter to millions of Afghans returning to their country after years of exile.

The approval of an \$87 billion supplemental bill by Congress means that the progress will continue in Afghanistan. More than \$1.5 billion will go to fund major infrastructure projects in Afghanistan.

The security situation is improving in the country, said Pentagon officials. This does not mean there won't be reverses in the future – attacks could happen at any moment. But the trends are up and U.S. officials are encouraged by the progress.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

Golf pros battle for top spot in PGA Tour



Tiger Woods had four back-nine bogeys in a 1-under-par 70.

HOUSTON—Ten minutes after he watched his par putt spin out of the hole to end an aggravating day, Tiger Woods changed into shorts and a sleeveless shirt, then strapped on his fingerless gloves to go lift weights.

"It might be a little heavier this time," Woods said of his workout.

If anything, he needed to work off some steam Thursday.

In a pressure-packed finale of the PGA Tour season, Woods had no trouble distancing himself from chief rival Vijay Singh in the first round of the Tour Championship.

It's the other dozen guys ahead of him that present the problem.

Charles Howell III and Kenny Perry led the way Thursday, each with a 4-under 67 in the tricky breezes at Champions Golf Club to tie for the lead.

Woods was tied for the lead at one point after a brilliant start in which he put five strokes between him and Singh after the first five holes.

But he let a good round get away with three straight bogeys on the back, including a three-putt on the par-5 13th, for a 1-under 70 that left him tied for 13th.

"I hit two bad shots, and that was it," Woods said. "The rest were most putting mistakes."

Much anticipated rookie matchup fizzles

CLEVELAND—The kid from the local high school stole the show — and all LeBron James could do was watch.

Tiny Earl Boykins, who grew up in Cleveland, scored all 18 of his points in the second half as the Denver Nuggets ruined James' hyped home debut Wednesday night, 93-89 over the winless Cavaliers.

Oh, and the James vs. Carmelo Anthony rivalry? Let's just say it needs some work. Maybe it's a good thing they'll play just once more this season.

"I'm glad it's over," said Anthony, who led Syracuse to an NCAA title as a freshman and will next meet James on Dec. 3 in Denver. "I ain't seen this much media since the national championship game."

Anthony outscored James 14-7 in the eagerly awaited matchup between the NBA's two star rookies. But neither was able to get into the flow and disappointed a sellout crowd of 20,562, which kept waiting for one of them to take over. Instead, it was the 5-foot-5 Boykins who made all the big shots and plays.



More than media 300 credentials were issued to see the first NBA matchup between Carmelo (left) and LeBron.

Rams' Holt closing on breaking record

ST. LOUIS—At the halfway point of the season, St. Louis Rams wide receiver Torry Holt is on pace to break the NFL record for reception yardage.

At least one of his teammates — Marshall Faulk — is not surprised by the big numbers put up by the player who nicknamed himself "Big Game."

Holt leads the league with 63 catches for 978 yards, needing only 22 for his fourth straight 1,000-yard season. At this pace the NFL record of 1,848 yards by Jerry Rice of the 49ers in 1995 is in jeopardy. The franchise record set by teammate Isaac Bruce, 1,781 yards also in 1995, also is in danger.

Holt's rookie year with the Rams was 1999, the year Marshall Faulk arrived in a trade from the Colts. Right away, Faulk took note of the first-round pick who helped the Rams win the Super Bowl.

"My first couple of years here, playing with him, I predicted what's happening right now for him," Faulk said. "I told him in this offense, with all the things you have around you, the possibilities are endless."

Lately, that's been the case. Holt was the lone standout on offense in last week's 30-10 loss at San Francisco, catching 11 passes for 200 yards and a 41-yard touchdown.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ NFL Live Presented by Sears (live) 0000Z, 0430L
- ❖ Kia NBA Shootaround (live) 0030Z, 0500L
- ❖ Timberwolves @ Magic (live) 0100Z, 0530L
- ❖ Trail Blazers @ Sonics (live) 0330Z, 0800L
- ❖ Boxing: Angel Vasquez vs Ernesto Zepeda (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖ Trail Blazers @ Sonics (taped) 1200Z, 1630L
- ❖ College Game Day by the Home Depot (live) 1530Z, 2000L
- ❖ Wisconsin @ Minnesota (live) 1700Z, 2130L

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Big XII: Nebraska @ Kansas (live) 2030Z, 0100L
- ❖ College Game Day Scoreboard (live) 2330Z, 0400L
- ❖ Big XII: Texas @ Oklahoma State (live) 0000Z, 0430L
- ❖ College Football Scoreboard (live) 0500Z, 0930L
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖ PGA Tour presented by Coca-Cola (taped) 1230Z, 1630L
- ❖ Discover Card Countdown to Green (live) 1730Z, 2200L
- ❖ NASCAR Winston Cup Series: Pop Secret Microwave Popcorn 400 (live) 1800Z, 2230L



The new Afghanistan starts to take shape

He won't get that. The draft constitution calls merely for civil law in keeping with Islamic principles. He will also have to put up with women having the vote. Still, the final result—no stonings or amputation of hands but no booze either—should be just about acceptable to the religious proletariat of village clerics like him who dictate and reflect the views of most Afghans.

Warlords assure UN envoys of support

“We are happy with the meeting and they were assured that we will

“Shireen Agha Salangi, who rarely left his house, was shot dead in front of his house at 2:30 this afternoon with five bullets by a gunman who had a silencer on his gun,” his neighbour who witnessed the shooting and wished to remain anonymous told *AFP*.

Afghans rule out Taliban swap for Turk

“Afghanistan does not make deals with terrorists,” he said. “Our work to free the engineer is going on. To avoid upsetting the process, I cannot give you further details. We are hopeful that he will be freed and can go home soon.”

"You've got good ASVAB scores, so all we have to do is get you a waiver on you're on your way."



By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

Slippery crossword

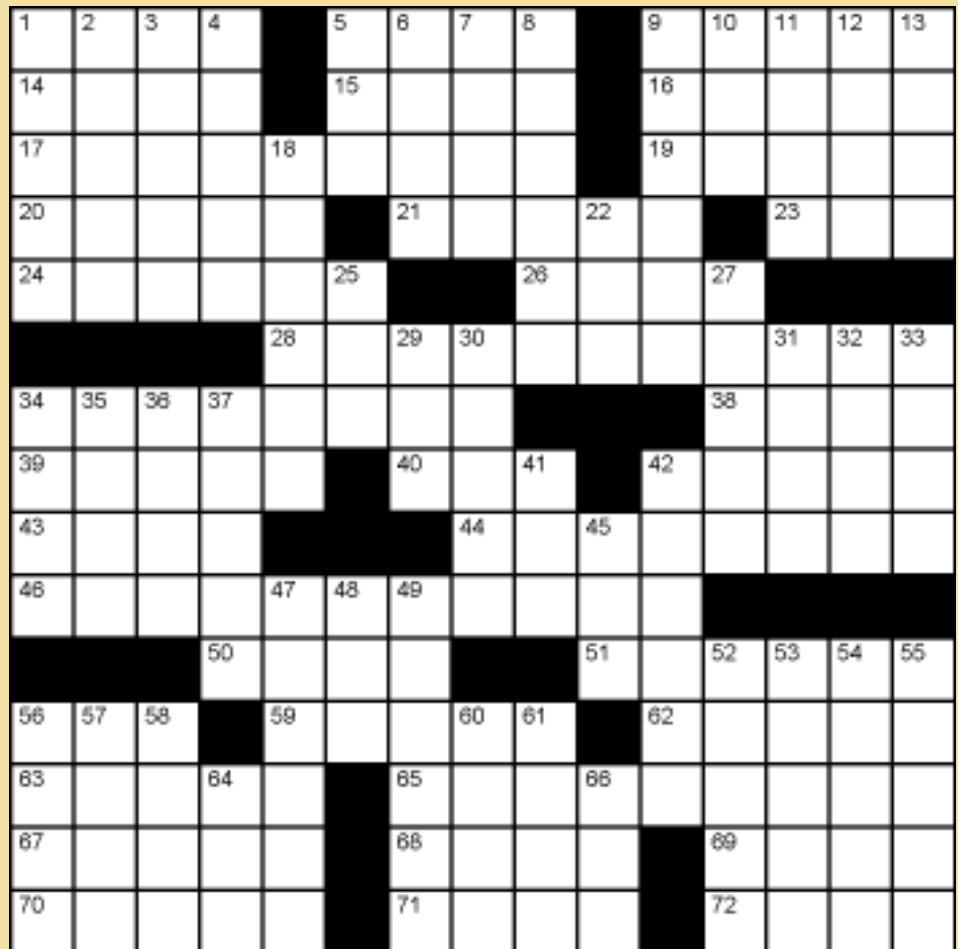
(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

ACROSS

- 1 Mrs. Truman
- 5 Take a break
- 9 DARTH of "Star Wars"
- 14 Zillions
- 15 Emollient-yielding plant
- 16 Slip away from
- 17 In quick succession
- 19 Like the Battle of Midway
- 20 Catchall column
- 21 Broke a Commandment
- 23 Type widths
- 24 Loch sighting, in tabloids
- 26 Doctors sometimes split them
- 28 VCR button
- 34 Item on Maine's flag
- 38 "___ Ben Adhem"
- 39 Prepares for publication
- 40 "What happened next?"
- 42 Prima donna's repertoire
- 43 ___ IRA
- 44 Bacitracin, for one
- 46 British press, figuratively
- 50 Big wheel's wheels
- 51 Becomes narrower
- 56 Parts of psyches
- 59 Perm features
- 62 Diamond unit
- 63 Hand-dyed fabric
- 65 Calcium oxide
- 67 Being employed
- 68 Bring to naught
- 69 Mac picture
- 70 Title for Wences
- 71 Scene of a temptation
- 72 GOP elephant creator

DOWN

- 1 Von Richthofen's title
- 2 Put on cloud nine
- 3 Tenth-graders



- 4 Messy places
- 5 Luftwaffe battlers: Abbr.
- 6 New Haven collegians
- 7 Put in groups
- 8 Start a hole
- 9 Thin layer
- 10 Actress Gardner
- 11 Winfield in Cooperstown
- 12 Cheese in balls
- 13 Fam. tree members
- 18 Blizzard pileups
- 22 Writer Rosten
- 25 Something to lend or bend
- 27 Travel like locusts
- 29 Coral or Aral
- 30 Caruso was one
- 31 Irish Rose's beau
- 32 Horse coloring
- 33 Check for fingerprints
- 34 Broadway showing: Abbr.
- 35 Revered object
- 36 Evening, in ads
- 37 Merman or Mertz
- 41 Yahtzee cube
- 42 Tear into
- 45 After-tax take
- 47 Heart, slangily
- 48 Dallas sch.
- 49 It's measured in foot-pounds
- 52 Michael of "Monty Python"
- 53 Author Jong
- 54 ___ gin fizz
- 55 Surgeon's blockage reliever
- 56 Hieroglyphics bird
- 57 Hamlet, for one
- 58 Phaser setting
- 60 John of "High Society"
- 61 French fries or cole slaw
- 64 Prefix with bar or tonic
- 66 One in the clink

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch